

In the Claims:

All of the currently pending claims are listed below including any amendments proposed herein. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A disk drive backplane for interfacing with a plurality of disk drive carrier types, the backplane comprising:

a connector for interfacing with a corresponding connector on each of the carrier types;
and

a plurality of differently configured status indicator arrays associated with the connector, each of the arrays corresponding to at least one of the carrier types and comprising at least one light source being operable to transmit disk drive status information, each of the arrays being positioned to interface with a corresponding status interface on the at least one corresponding carrier type; and

a light pipe adapter operable to facilitate connection between a first one of the status indicator arrays and the status interface of the corresponding carrier type;

wherein the first status indicator array comprises a first number of light sources, the light pipe adapter being operable to facilitate transmission of the disk drive status information from the first number of light sources to a second number of status indicators via the status interface of the corresponding carrier type, the first number being different from the second number.

2. (Original) The backplane of claim 1 further comprising circuitry for enabling one of the status indicator arrays thereby configuring the backplane to interface with a particular one of the carrier types.

3. (Original) The backplane of claim 2 wherein the enabling circuitry comprises selection circuitry operable to gate signals to the one of the status indicator arrays being enabled.

4. (Original) The backplane of claim 3 wherein the selection circuitry is operable to employ at least one shorting jumper to effect gating of the signals.

5. (Original) The backplane of claim 3 wherein the selection circuitry comprises at least one switch to effect gating of the signals.

6. (Original) The backplane of claim 3 wherein the signals comprise any of an activity signal from the particular one of the carrier types, a power signal, a fault signal from the particular one of the carrier types, and a fault signal derived from an external source.

7. (Original) The backplane of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises a SCA-2 connector as defined by the ANSI T-10 Committee for SCSI interfaces

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

9. (Currently amended) The backplane of claim 8¹ wherein the at least one light source represents any of a drive activity signal, a fault signal, and a power signal.

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

12. (Currently amended) The backplane of claim 14 wherein the first number is greater than the second number.

13. (Currently amended) The backplane of claim 14 wherein the first number is fewer than the second number.

14. (Original) The backplane of claim 1 wherein at least one of the status indicator arrays corresponds to more than one of the carrier types.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The backplane of claim 1 wherein each of the status indicator arrays comprises at least one electrical contact operable to transmit the disk drive status information.

17. (Original) The backplane of claim 16 wherein the at least one electrical contact represents any of a drive activity signal, a fault signal, and a power signal.

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice.

19. (Canceled)

Please cancel claims 20-26 without prejudice.

27. (Previously presented) A disk drive backplane for interfacing with two different disk drive carrier types, the backplane comprising:

a connector for interfacing with a corresponding connector on each of the carrier types;

a first number of light sources operable to transmit disk drive status information, the light sources being positioned to interface with a corresponding status interface on each of the carrier types; and

a light pipe adapter operable to facilitate transmission of the disk drive status information from the first number of light sources to a second number of status indicators via the status interface of the corresponding carrier type, wherein the second number is not equal to the first number.